



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Lawrence Anthony Franklin, age 58, of Kearneysville, WV, pled guilty today in US District Court in Alexandria to conspiracy to communicate national defense information to persons not entitled to receive it; conspiring with an official of a foreign government to communicate classified information; and unlawful retention of classified materials. Sentencing will be January 20, 2006, before the Honorable T.S. Ellis III, at which time Franklin faces a maximum sentence of 25 years imprisonment.

Mr. McNulty stated: “ We are pleased with today’s guilty plea and will continue to press forward in the prosecution of the remaining defendants.”

This case was investigated by the FBI, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Kevin DiGregory and Neil Hammerstrom, and Thomas Reilly, Trial Attorney, the Counterespionage Section of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice.

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